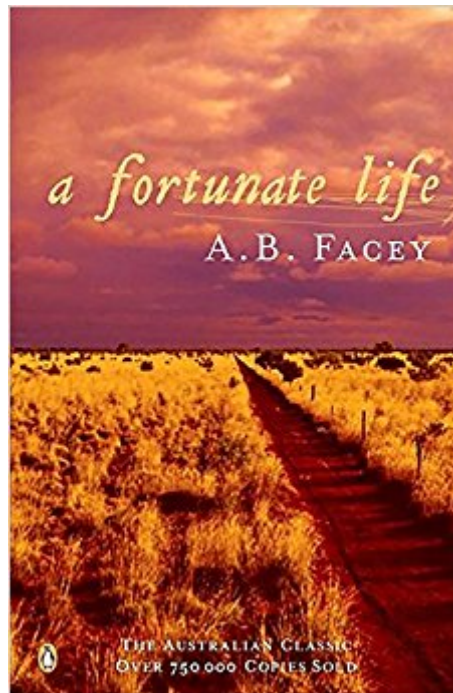




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# A Fortunate Life



## Synopsis

Born in 1894, Albert Facey lived the rough frontier life of a sheep farmer, survived the gore of Gallipoli, raised a family through the Depression, and spent 60 years with his beloved wife, Evelyn. Despite enduring hardships we can barely imagine today, Facey always saw his life as a "fortunate" one. A true classic of Australian literature, his simply written autobiography is an inspiration. It is the story of a life lived to the full – the extraordinary journey of an ordinary man.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A. B. Facey (1894-2010) and grew up on the Kalgoorlie goldfields and in the wheat-belt of Western Australia. His father died before he was two and he was deserted by his mother soon afterwards. He was looked after by his grandmother until he was eight years old, when he went out to work. His many jobs included droving, hammering spikes on the railway line from Merredin to Wickepin and boxing in a travelling troupe. He was in the Eleventh Battalion at the Gallipoli landing; after the war, he became a farmer under the Soldier Settlement Scheme but was forced off the land during the Depression. He joined the tramways and was active in the Tramways Union. Facey, who had no formal education, taught himself to read and write. He made the first notes of his life soon after World War I, and filled notebooks with his accounts of his experiences. Finally, on the urging of his daughter, Barbara Rose, the hand-written manuscript was submitted to the Fremantle Arts Centre Press to see 'if they could print a few copies for the family'. They very soon found they had a bestseller on their hands! Albert died in 1982, nine months after *A Fortunate Life* had been published, and his daughter Barbara died in 2010.

Albert Facey is as much a part of Australian Outback history as the Big Red Kangaroo and Dingo. He overcame unspeakable odds and that was BEFORE surviving 11 bayonet charges in WWI at Gallipoli. This story moves very quickly and does not disappoint!

This is an autobiography of a remarkable Australian who was born in the 1890s and eventually died in the 1980s. It is a remarkable achievement to have even written this book since Bertie never learnt to read or write until he was an adult. He lives a hard life in the rural areas of WA, brought up initially by his grandmother and then being placed on the farms of others because they could not afford to keep him. He was a real Jack-of-all-trades. He had a strong work ethic, and admirable morals. He never drank alcohol because he had witnessed too many unpleasant scenes which eventuated because of intoxication. He goes to Gallipoli, eventually marries and has children. He has to find a way to survive as returned injured soldier in depression times. It is hard to know why the book is so enjoyable. It simply tells an honest tale of someone's life in fairly plain and simple English. His pioneering spirit is wonderful. He suffers so many hardships and, without complaint, works out the next step and on he goes. His only words of bitterness are asserted only when confronted by cruelty and unfairness handed out by others. He is just so modest and dignified, you can't but help wanting to know how things go for him. I really enjoyed this book. I wish I could have met this interesting man. It is an Australian classic that somehow passed me by and I am glad I have now read it.

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